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EDMONTON • MONDAY, JULY 7, 2008

metronews.ca

Beijing p/8

Amputee Connor runs for gold

Celeb buzz p/14

Kate has lunch date with Lance and her mom

15 downtown peace officers added to patrol

CRIME. Fifteen peace officers and three team leaders are now patrolling Churchill Square and City Hall in order to curb crime that some councillors say is a growing problem in Edmonton's downtown.

The officers will enforce bylaws and write tickets that will give them more authority than a security guard, said Dean Sydlowski, a security adviser with the city.

"Having the extra layer of law enforcement makes everyone in the vicinity of City Hall and Sir Winston Churchill Square that much safer," said Sydlowski in a press release last week.

The new officers have been on duty since Canada Day.

JEFF CUMMINGS/METRO EDMONTON

One arrested in fatal shooting near Slave Lake

SWAN RIVER. Mounties in Faust are searching for clues after a man was shot and killed on Saturday in a Northern Alberta aboriginal community.

Roy Rodney Twin, 38, died while he was being rushed to hospital moments after residents in the Swan River Indian Reserve near Slave Lake heard gunshots in the area, say Faust RCMP.

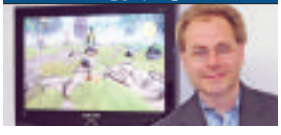
Frank Gilbert Chalifoux has been charged with manslaughter in connection with Twin's death and the Swan River man is set to appear in a High Prairie Provincial Court today.

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES/METRO EDMONTON

Canada page 4

PM denounces Zimbabwe vote

Workology page 10



Education via video games

Business page 7

Vehicle imports from U.S. soar

BEN LEMPHERS/METRO EDMONTON

Federal Liberal Leader Stephane Dion talks to reporters after attending the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition Summit yesterday at the University of Alberta where he addressed young delegates from across the country to talk about his new plan to tax greenhouse gas emitters.

Dion admits green plan a tough sell in Alberta

But Grit leader argues carbon tax will spur positive social changes

ANDREW COWIE
for Metro Edmonton

As part of a much publicized tour of Alberta, federal Liberal Leader Stephane Dion was at the University of Alberta yesterday to promote his controversial new carbon tax plan.

After spending a day talking to Stampede goers in Calgary about his "green shift" plan that looks to collect $15.4 billion in new taxes from industries that produce high carbon emissions, Dion told more than 100 young people at the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition Conference that his plan would be a tough sell in Alberta.

"I know Alberta is a pluralistic society with different views," he said.

"I say to (people opposed) that I'm convinced that ... it's better for Alberta do it than not do it, and do it with the Liberal approach and not the Conservative approach."

Dion said that while Prime Minister Stephen Harper's plan is "full of loopholes" and "would not get any results", the Liberal plan would be a plausible way for Albertans to make social changes by shifting tax weight off low-income families to emissions instead.

"(Albertans) want to look at their grandkids and say 'I did something for you,'" Dion said.

"I think Canada should lead and not be a free rider of climate change."

Greenpeace spokesman Mike Hudema says it can be difficult to cipher through Dion's political promise when elections are on the minds of politicians.

"You need to take it with a little bit of grain of cynicism," he said.

"(But) the fact he's talking about climate change, I think it shows just how much of a national priority this is for Canadians.

"The carbon tax is one possible solution ... we need much more."

Premier Ed Stelmach said Dion's plan would harm the province's agriculture and manufacturing sectors, along with terminating its economic competitiveness with other countries and jurisdictions.

> **"(Albertans) want to look at their grandkids and say 'I did something for you.' I think Canada should lead and not be a free rider of climate change."**
> Federal Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Edmonton. 10123 - 99 Street NW Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3H1. Publisher: Steve Shrout

Check out an Eskimos game
This Thursday at 8 p.m., the Eskies take on the Toronto Argonauts at Commonwealth Stadium. Tickets are available by calling 448-ESKS or through Ticketmaster. METRO EDMONTON

Local

Catch a glimpse of history

From today until Oct. 5, the Royal Alberta Museum will be displaying over 50 artifacts rescued from the Empress of Ireland, a ship that sank in the St. Lawrence River on May 29, 1914, taking over 1,000 lives with it in 14 minutes. The wreck is known to be the worst maritime disaster in Canadian history. METRO EDMONTON

Acrobatic **Standing tall in front of City Hall**

BENJAMIN LEMPHERS/METRO EDMONTON

Montreal acrobat, Davio, performs at the 2008 Edmonton International Street Performers Festival in Churchill Square yesterday afternoon in front of City Hall while under stormy skies.

Violence part of culture: Expert

Many factors in city's high homicide rate

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
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Edmonton's murder rate is the highest in the country and residents have every reason to be afraid as the violence will continue to escalate through the summer, says a local crime expert.

"For the city of our size, there's a lot of killing going on here, but Edmonton's always had a high homicide rate," said Bill Pitt, a criminology professor at the University of Alberta.

"Typically the reasons we see here are a correlation of a significant drug rate and high aboriginal population.

"There's a very lucrative drug and prostitution trade here, which is a magnet for 18 to 30 year old males. They're really heading this way because there's lots of money this way."

Pitt added that Alberta has the highest high school dropout rate in the country, which is another contributing factor.

"People are finding alternate ways to earn money like the drug trade and getting involved in gangs, which are really entrenched here."

He said that Edmonton has at least 20 to 30 active gangs.

On Wednesday, 24-year-old Scott Ladouceur was shot and killed west of the Evergreen Trailer Park in the city's north end Wednesday night.

Ladouceur and another man were shot in what police believe was a gang-related crime. The second man survived.

Another gang-related shooting took place last week, the night after Ladouceur was killed. Around the same time, a gang riot broke out in Edmonton's maximum-security prison.

"These guys that are in prison are basically the board of directors and are calling the shots from inside the prison," said Pitt.

Last weekend, city escort Chantel Robertson, 20, was found buried in a southside backyard.

> **"This is the prostitute killing capital of the country. It's almost an epidemic in Edmonton. We have a culture of misogyny, a culture of hating women, and a culture of homicide"**
> Bill Pitt
> criminology professor

"This is the prostitute killing capital of the country. It's almost an epidemic in Edmonton," Pitt said. "We have a culture of misogyny, a culture of hating women, and a culture of homicide.

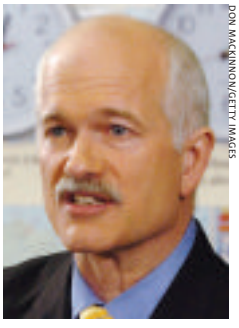
"This city has changed dramatically. There are no little safe havens or enclaves anymore. The potential to be shot, robbed, or stabbed is real. There is a legitimate concern for people's safety in this city."

Climate summit sparks debate on tarsands

ANDREW COWIE
for Metro Edmonton

ENVIRONMENT Alberta's tarsands were on the minds of many youths who came from across Canada for a three day youth climate summit that wrapped up yesterday at the University of Alberta.

Political figures such as federal NDP Leader Jack Layton and Liberal Leader Stephen Dion stopped in for the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition Summit to voice their concerns on what they call a declining state of care from Ottawa when it comes to the environment.



DON MACKINNON/GETTY IMAGES

Jack Layton

"We're here because we're very concerned over the tarsands," Meredith James, a co-organizer for the conference and member of the coalition.

"These [speakers] show the young people how important these issues are."

James said over 100 youth stopping in to listen to the different guest speakers during the three-day conference.

"The [support] has been phenomenal," she said. "It's a long three days to come here and the room has always been full."

The Canadian Youth Climate Coalition is a youth based group that started in Montreal in 2006 to combat climate change — something they see as one of the greatest challenges facing Canada's youth.

Suicidal man arrested after threatening wife and kids

THREATENING Mounties in Drayton Valley had a life-or-death situation on their hands after a suicidal man tried to get them to shoot him last week.

A pedestrian was walking down the street near the small community's rec centre, when he stopped to help a woman and her two children, who were being threatened by a man with a knife, police said.

Mounties say the irate man, who was the woman's husband and father to the 12 and 14-year old children, threatened the passerby with the knife when he tried to intervene in the situation.

Thinking quickly, the passerby managed to defend himself and occupy the knife-wielding man until police arrived, say Drayton Valley RCMP.

After police managed to get him to drop the knife, however, the man repeatedly shouted, "Shoot me! Shoot me!"

Though officers threatened the man with a Taser gun, he charged at them, and was tackled to the ground and arrested, police said.

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
METRO EDMONTON

Rock out with Kid Rock
Bad-boy rocker Kid Rock takes the Rexall Place stage Friday night, bringing Rev Run, Matt Mays and El Torpedo along for the ride. Tickets range from $36.50 to $69.50 at Ticketmaster. METRO EDMONTON

Bixby's star soaring

Canadian Idol runner up has a hit with first single

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
victoria.handysides@metronews.ca

He stole the hearts of millions on last season's Canadian Idol, and now he's taking his home province by storm.

Jaydee Bixby plucked his way into the number two spot on the show with chords on his guitar and incredible voice that sounds as if it traveled to 2008 straight from the 1950s.

It's been a year since his stint on the show — something he says has completely changed his life.

"I've always wanted to see my name in lights, and there's nothing like it," he said, while on the road in Southern Alberta.

"I've always wanted to have my own concerts and CDs, and now I have the chance to have these goals happen, and I'm really happy about it."

Recently, the 17-year-old from Red Deer took his love for music one step further, and released his debut original album, "Cowboys and Cadillacs."

The number one hit single from the album, "Old Fashioned Girl" is hitting the airwaves and making it into top 10 charts on a number of country radio stations.

"I didn't realize how much work went into making a CD and songwriting. It made me understand the other side of the industry," he said, adding that he used a 60-year-old microphone to give the album a nostalgic sound.

Bixby hoped to fuel his tracks with wholesome lyrics that would appeal to the younger demographic that appreciate his music.

Jaydee Bixby

"I wanted songs that younger girls can look up to," he said of his song "Old Fashioned Girl."

"A lot of girls think they have to dress a certain way to have boys like them. An old-fashioned girl is good enough for me."

Bixby hits the HMV stage for a free concert this Friday and West Edmonton Mall.

On guard! Martial arts practice in Hawrelak Park

BENJAMIN LEMPHERS/METRO EDMONTON

Andre Costa and his instructor Randy King, left of KPC Martial Arts practise Arnis, a Filipino stick fighting martial art, at Hawrelak Park yesterday afternoon.

BENJAMIN LEMPHERS/METRO EDMONTON

Late afternoon thundershowers caused flooding on some city roads yesterday including this intersection and sidewalk at 99 Street and Whyte Avenue

Wacky weather causes flooding

ANDREW COWIE
for Metro Edmonton

THUNDERSTORM A week of sunshine and Alberta heat ended in a thunderous hurry yesterday afternoon as Edmonton's roadways and sidewalks were transformed into small lakes and rivers.

Severe thunderstorms warnings from Environment Canada sprung up for Edmonton over the course of the day and several sections of the city were pounded with heavy rain and lightning.

In some parts, pools of water could be seen flooding intersections along Whyte Avenue and there were reports of flooding underneath a small number of overpasses along Whitemud Drive.

The city wasn't alone as Sherwood Park and St. Albert were also issued severe thunderstorm warnings. A funnel cloud was also spotted near Hobbema and a tornado touched down near Airdrie, said Environment Canada.

Showers and more thunderstorms have been forecasted for Edmonton this week.

*This program will be offered once licensing under the Private Vocational Training Act is in place.

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Common chemicals identified
Catecho, a chemical used to develop photos and as an oxidizing agent in hair dyes, has been listed by the government as one of eight dangerous common chemicals. METRO

Canada

"One (appeal) is asking for a kidney to be donated altruistically."
Ken Donohue of the B.C. Transplant Society speaking on the transplant selection process.

close friend?
Two Canadian couples have turned to Facebook and Craigslist in their search for organ donation. Canadian law allows friends to donate but officials have no way of telling the depth of that friendship.

G8 looks to regain stature

Harper calls to condemn Mugabe election

Weakened by economic woes and enduring political divisions, leaders of the Group of Eight nations meeting here will be more hard-pressed than usual to live up to their avowed commitment to act in the global interest.

KIM HOON/REUTERS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is greeted by Japanese officials upon his arrival at New Chitose International Airport yesterday ahead of the G8 Summit.

Early indications are that Canada, the United States and other G-8 countries are shying away from agreements on decisive action on some of today's most pressing problems — improving health in developing nations, aid to Africa, the world food crisis and climate change.

"Their credibility is running low because under their tenure, not much has happened" to help developing countries, Mark Fried, advocacy co-ordinator for Oxfam Canada, says of current G-8 leaders.

The group, which also includes Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia, is opening a three-day summit on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido.

But Prime Minister Stephen Harper has already called on the G-8 to condemn Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's recent controversial election.

Harper met with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda shortly after arriving from Canada.

During a 45-minute session, Harper and Fukuda agreed that the G8 should put out a separate statement on the illegitimacy of Mugabe's government in Zimbabwe. Some countries taking part in today's discussions on Africa also favour the adoption of tougher sanctions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Native schools strapped for cash: Superintendent

80 The number of native schools across Canada in a tough financial situation.

CALGARY Yvonne DePeel, a Calgary native school superintendent, says the federal government's recent residential schools apology is meaningless if the students today on Canada's native reserves can't get a decent education.

DePeel points to the Morley Community School for native students west of Calgary that may be forced to hold classes outdoors next year because of a lack of space. The school was built to hold 450 students, but when classes resume in September, 790-plus students are expected to arrive.

MP Charlie Angus, the NDP's native affairs critics, said there are 80 native schools across Canada in the same situation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa man charged in theft of 25 sewer grates

high prices
Scrap steel prices reached $370 a tonne this year.

FINES A 42-year-old Ottawa man faces charges in connection to the recent disappearance of manhole covers and sewer grates in the city.

Tim Argiropoulos, 42, will appear in court next month in connection to the theft of 25 sewer grates in the Elmvale Acres area. The municipality had to issue a warning last week for residents to watch out for holes left in the streets after more than 150 of the covers and grates were taken in the past month.

It's thought that the disappearance of the covers and grates is connected to high scrap metal prices.

METRO CANADA

News in brief

BULGARIA A Canadian businessman who was imprisoned in Bulgaria after being convicted of embezzlement returned home to Vancouver last night after spending 12 years in jail. Michael Kapoustin, 55, was cleared of the former charge but was convicted of embezzling around $4 million from 2,800 Bulgarian investors. METRO CANADA

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Fortune favours wheat farmers

In a world of growing hunger, the food producer is king.

Western Canadian grain farmers were once the lowliest of all, but just two years after grain prices bottomed out, they are reaping the benefits of having sown what is so desperately needed: food.

The price of grain has soared this past year, turning profits for farmers once on the verge of bankruptcy.

"Farmers have never seen a year like (this), wonderful crop, unbelievable prices," says Dan Mourre, a farmer near Rosetown, Sask. "There are a lot of happy people around. If oil can go up to $150 a barrel, why shouldn't wheat go to $15 a bushel?"

In six months, the price of durum went from $4 a bushel to $12; lentil, which three years ago sold at 10 cents a pound, now goes for four times that amount.

> **"Farmers have never seen a year like this...unbelievable prices."**
> Dan Mourre, farmer

While farmers here and around the world are focused on what appear to be good times for them, they have not directed their efforts yet to what most concerns politicians and even consumers — a worldwide food shortage, says Bob Friesen, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

He says Canadian farmers can do more to address the global food shortage, and have started to do so by growing more crops because of the increased demand. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Québec Street performers

MATHIEU BELANGER/REUTERS

A street performer performs during the annual "Gathering on the Boulevard" show in Quebec City yesterday.

European missile shield
The Czech Republic and the United States will sign a treaty tomorrow to build a missile defence radar on Czech soil despite opposition at home and in Russia. Washington is also planning to put 10 interceptor rockets in neighbouring Poland. REUTERS

World

Wax figure protest

A man tore the head from a controversial waxwork figure of Adolf Hitler on the opening day of Berlin's Madame Tussauds museum Saturday, police said. Minutes after the museum opened, the 41-year-old German man pushed aside two security men guarding the figure before ripping off the head in protest at the exhibit. REUTERS

News in brief

HURRICANE Tropical Storm Bertha, moving briskly across open ocean waters, may strengthen into the first hurricane of the 2008 Atlantic storm season sometime during the next 48 hours, U.S. weather forecasters said yesterday.

HOSTAGES Freed hostage Ingrid Betancourt spoke yesterday through a radio broadcast to those still being held in the Colombian jungle by leftist guerrillas, urging them not to lose hope.

AFGHANISTAN Afghan President Hamid Karzai has ordered an investigation into a U.S.-led coalition air strike that local officials say killed 15 civilians, but the U.S. military says killed only armed Taliban militants. But just as the president gave the order, accusations surfaced that another coalition airstrike had killed 23 civilians travelling in a wedding convoy. REUTERS

Parents appeal to son's killer

Suspect still loose after London murder

The parents of one of the two French students murdered in London a week ago in a frenzied knife attack appealed yesterday for the killer to come forward and said they would not rest until the guilty party was found.

Suspect composite

Bio-engineering students Laurent Bonomo and Gabriel Ferez, both 23, were bound, gagged and repeatedly stabbed in Bonomo's south London apartment in what police called the most "frenzied, brutal and horrific" murders they had seen.

Bonomo was stabbed nearly 200 times, up to 80 time after he was dead, while Ferez received nearly 50 knife wounds.

French newspapers said the shocking murders highlighted how dangerous the city had become after a spate of street teen stabbings this year that has prompted the mayor to make it a priority and police to expand a specialist knife crime squad.

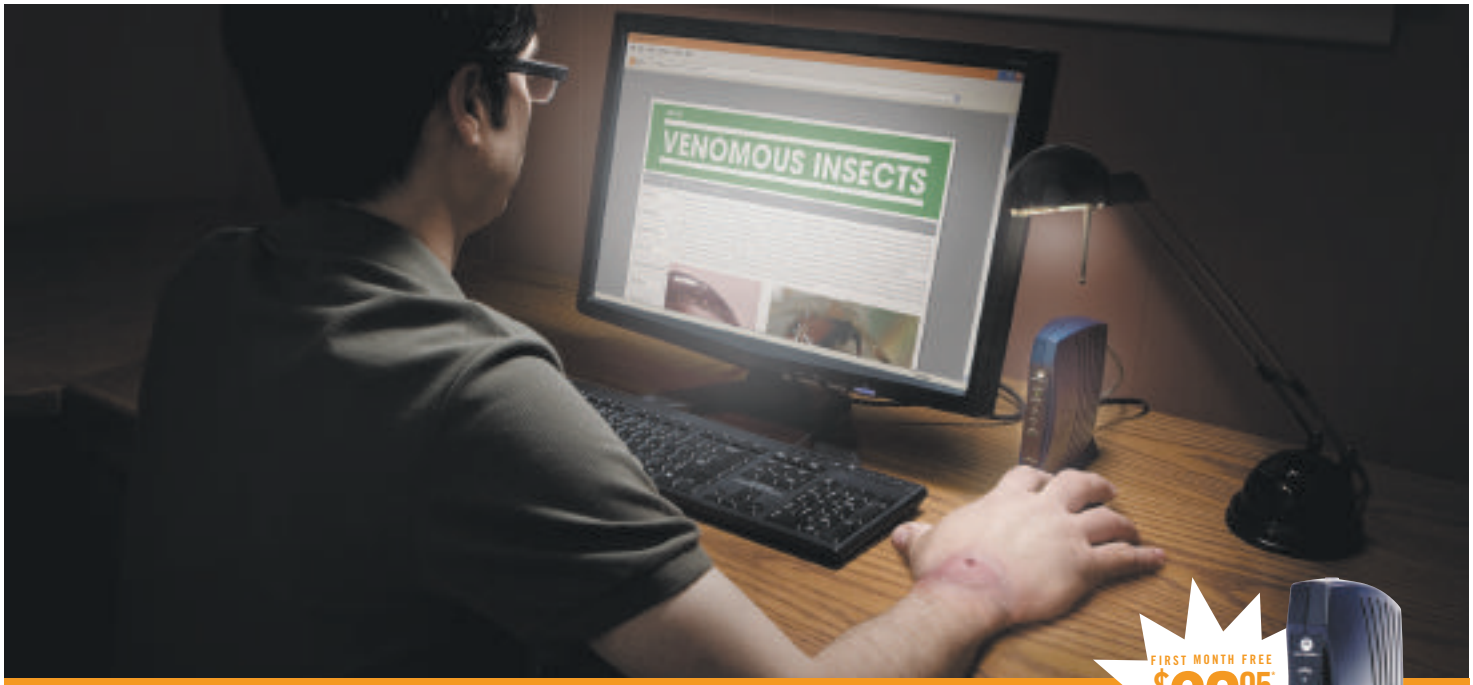
"We plead with you to turn yourselves in to the police. You will not be able to live in hiding forever," Ferez' parents Francoise and Olivier said in a statement. "You may be scared and feel like a coward, but you must recognize this terrible mistake you made. Rest assured that we will not leave you in peace."

Police issued a computer-generated likeness of a man seen running from near the apartment on the night of the murders. REUTERS

Spain **Helping hands**

REUTERS/DANI CORDONA

A reveller is caught after leaping from the Plaza de la Navarreria fountain at the start of the San Fermin festival yesterday in Pamplona, Spain.



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6 dead in Iraq bombing

A car bomb killed six civilians and wounded 14 other people in the Shaab district of northern Baghdad yesterday, police said. One woman was among the dead and three policemen were wounded in the attack, which targeted a police patrol. REUTERS

News in brief

PAKISTAN A suicide bomber killed at least eight people and wounded 23 in an attack on police who had been guarding Islamists marking the anniversary of an army commando raid on Islamabad's Red Mosque. The attack will raise questions about a new government's policy of trying to end militant violence through negotiations and increase concern about prospects for the country, a nuclear-armed U.S. ally making a transition to civilian rule.

ABDUCTIONS U.S. President George W. Bush pledged yesterday that Japan's concerns about North Korean abductions of its citizens would not be ignored even as Washington moved to ease sanctions against the communist country. Bush has begun easing restrictions on Pyongyang after it offered details of its nuclear weapons programme, but the U.S. leader made a pointed effort to show his support for Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda.

AGRICULTURE The European Union will channel 1 billion euros in unused European farm subsidies to African farmers as part of its response to the global food crisis, the head of the EU executive said this morning. REUTERS

Firefighters brace for new heat wave

Conditions right for fire to grow: National Forest Service

Weary California firefighters braced yesterday for another heat wave in the next few days as they battled to bring two major blazes threatening towns along the central coast under control.

REUTERS/ROBERT GALBRAITH

Firefighter David Ford, right, throws a flare to set a backfire yesterday, as fellow firefighter Peter Aranda looks on during a massive wildfire in Big Sur, California.

Residents in more than 2,600 homes in the path of a 9,367 acre fire in the Santa Barbara area were still under evacuation orders. Families who live in another 850 houses were warned to be ready to leave at short notice, county officials said.

Cooler weather Saturday helped fire crews make some headway against a six-day old fire raging in rugged terrain near the small town of Goleta, about eight miles from Santa Barbara.

But with the fire only 28 per cent contained, temperatures rose and humidity dropped yesterday ahead of what forecasters warned would be another heat wave ahead with temperatures exceeding 38 C in many areas.

"Any time temperatures increase and relative humidity goes down, the fuels get drier and you have a more combustible situation. There is a lot of concern for firefighter safety," said Karen McKinley, spokeswoman for the National Forest Service.

"We've got increased temperatures and increased winds today. Canyons and passes tend to channel winds, so what could happen is that the winds could channel the fire down San Marco pass and that would hit Goleta and Santa Barbara," she said. REUTERS

Age a factor in male fertility, researchers say

FRANCE Couples trying to have a baby when the man is over 40 will have more difficulty conceiving than if he is younger, French researchers said yesterday.

Doctors know a woman's age plays a key role, but the findings presented at the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology conference suggest the paternal impact is stronger than earlier thought, Stephanie Belloc and colleagues said.

"Our data gives evidence for the first time, for a strong paternal effect on IUI (intrauterine insemination) outcome either on pregnancy rates but also on miscarriage rates," Belloc and her team from the Eylau Centre for Assisted Reproduction in France said. REUTERS

DNA

The researchers do not know exactly why age plays a role, but said DNA decay in sperm could be a likely explanation.

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metro Do it daily.

High oil spurs demand for low energy electronics

From washing machines that use steam instead of hot water, to fridges that use low energy compressors, to low power computer screens, electronics firms are furiously developing energy efficient products that use less electricity than competitors' brands. REUTERS

Business

Bush backs strong dollar

U.S. President George W. Bush said in Tokyo yesterday the American economy was not growing as quickly as he would like and that his administration supported a strong dollar policy. The U.S. economy grew at a 1 per cent annual rate in the first quarter amid soaring oil and commodity prices. REUTERS

Imports of vehicles from U.S. double

The number of vehicles imported into Canada from the United States in 2008 is well on pace to break last year's record high, according to data compiled by the North American Automobile Trade Association.

Canadians imported 151,169 vehicles as of June 30, more than double the amount for the same period a year earlier, and fast approaching the 189,738 vehicles imported throughout 2007.

"The strong Canadian dollar is definitely the force behind that (trend) and I think that Canadians are becoming more and more aware of the vast savings on some vehicles," said Mark Sandelin, chief executive of Import Trader, a company that specializes in importing vehicles and heavy equipment from the United States.

Sandelin says once all the import fees have been taken into account, Canadians can expect to save, on average, between $3,000 and $4,000 on a vehicle selling for $30,000 at a Canadian dealership.

Last week, the Canadian government made it easier for Canadians to import vehicles from the United States by introducing new bumper standards to match those currently in place in the United States and Europe. REUTERS

Starbucks' fall delights fans

GLEE Financial woes at Starbucks, which is planning to close 600 underperforming U.S. stores, is evoking glee and little sympathy from aficionados who say they resent the coffee shop giant and favour independent cafes.

The schadenfreude of coffee drinkers drawing satisfaction from another's misfortune is part of the popular culture that enjoys the downfall of companies or celebrities, said Jim Carroll, a Canadian-based trends and innovation expert. Starbucks fell victim to a change in attitude, fuelled by bloggers complaining about layoffs to its sandwiches, he said. REUTERS

Ivey index's rise beats expectations

CANADIAN ECONOMY Canadian business purchasing activity increased more than expected in June, to 69.6 from 62.5 in May, according to the Ivey Purchasing Managers Index released Friday, but the figures also signalled the jobs market may be weakening.

The Ivey employment index dropped to 58.2 from 59.3 in the previous month. In May, Canadian job growth was at its weakest level since December with the economy adding 8,400 jobs, which was below the median analyst forecast for 10,000 jobs. REUTERS

News in brief

BCE TAKEOVER BCE Inc. said on Friday that its buyers had finalized funding and were sticking to their $34.8-billion purchase price. BCE said it expected its going-private deal to close by Dec. 11. REUTERS

METRO Edmonton

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Health Olympic athletes exposed to Beijing's polluted air face possible blood circulation problems which could affect their performance, experts say, adding they should avoid crowded places whenever possible. REUTERS

Beijing Games

Christopher books ticket to Beijing

ATHLETICS Tyler Christopher roared to victory in the 400-metre final at the Canadian track and field championships on Saturday in Windsor, Ont., setting an event record of 45.03 seconds and booking his ticket to the Beijing Games.

Priscilla Lopes-Schliep won the women's 100 hurdles final in 12.78 seconds, beating Angela Whyte who recorded a season-best 12.96.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Gay will miss out on 200M in Beijing

ATHLETICS World champion Tyson Gay's dream of Olympic double gold ended in pain when he crashed out of the U.S. 200 metres quarter-finals on Saturday.

Already qualified for Beijing in the 100 metres, Gay had run about 40 metres of the 200 metres when he grabbed at his left hamstring and tumbled to track with a severe cramp.

The injury was a major blow to the U.S. hopes in Beijing since under the strict qualifying procedure of the trials only the top three finishers make the Olympic team regardless of circumstances. REUTERS

Phelps takes aim at 8 gold medals

SWIMMING Michael Phelps closed out the U.S. Olympic trials with a commanding win in the 100 metres butterfly on Saturday, adding a final flourish to his packed Beijing program.

After seven days, 15 swims and two world records, Phelps has crafted an Olympic schedule that will include eight events, providing the 23-year-old with enough ammunition to attack Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals at a single Summer Games. REUTERS

Tomorrow's lineup

LIFE'S A BEACH. Beach volleyball player Dana Cooke and partner Annie Martin have spent the past month in Europe going from tournament to tournament in an effort to secure a spot in Beijing. Read tomorrow's Metro for more.

31 days remain until the official start of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

'I am living my dream'

Paralympic athlete Connor, 31, sets sights on gold medal in Beijing

ALICIA FOX
for Metro Canada

Fate had seemingly made a wretched decision, but Calgarian paralympic athlete Earle Connor stood up and ran in the other direction — literally — with just one foot.

When he was three months old, Connor's parents had to make a tough decision: Subject their child to surgery every time he grew, or amputate his left leg. Born with a congenital condition that left his leg without a fibula, his parents decided to amputate his leg. The alternative, says the now 31-year-old, would have been very limiting, and would have confined him to a wheelchair. Instead, he took up sports.

"Beyond being an amputee, it was a way to express myself as a child," he said, describing himself as an eternal optimistic with a "huge slice of competitive."

Now the undefeated champion in the 100-metre dash, Connor will compete for Canada at the Beijing Paralympics.

It has been a long road to China for Connor, filled with tough lessons learned as a young athlete.

Another setback had Connor debating the end of his sporting career. In 2004 he failed a drug test because of personal, yet legal, medications he says that as a young man he was too embarrassed to admit he was taking.

"My own downfall is what I created," he said. Due to cancer concerns, a testicle had been removed and the testosterone patch he had been wearing to balance his hormones tipped his levels on the day of one test, weeks before he was to compete.

"I learned a very valuable lesson about taking ownership for who you are," Connor said.

He continues to challenge himself to be healthy and happy, remembering to have fun, and keeping balance in his life.

"If you don't have balance, you're really out of whack," he said.

After a two-year hiatus, the athlete, who proudly holds his undefeated streak since 1997, has three main goals.

"First and foremost is to win a gold medal in Beijing," he said, adding that's like "the A-plus on the term paper." He'd also like to beat his own world record of 12.14 seconds and run the race in under 12, which he said is an exhilarating accomplishment.

The last goal looks away from the track.

"(I'd like to) transcend into real life," said the newly married Connor, adding he's excited about the prospect of improving lives by working in the prosthetic industry.

But for now, "I really am totally living my dream," he said.

Canadian paralympic athlete Earle Connor is gearing up for the Games in Beijing.

Paralympic facts

- The Paralympics will be held Sept. 7-17, with the opening ceremony set for Sept. 6. The slogan is "One World, One Dream."
- The first Winter Paralympics were held in Sweden in 1976.
- "Paralympics" comes from the Greek "para," meaning "alongside," and therefore refers to a competition held parallel to the Olympics.
- In 2004, Athens saw 3,806 Paralympic athletes. More than 4,000 are expected to attend this year in Beijing.
- The Summer Games in Beijing will have 20 sports competitions — the highest number in Paralympic history.
- Amputees are not necessarily limited to competing against other amputees, and their abilities will be evaluated by an international panel alongside other Paralympians prior to the Games.

by the numbers

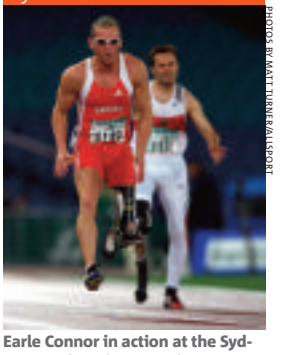

PHOTO BY MATTHIAS HANNER/ALLSPORT

Earle Connor in action at the Sydney Paralympic Games in 2000.

25-30 Number of hours Earle Connor trains every week.

1999 Year Connor moved to Calgary. He's originally from rural Saskatchewan.

100-metre dash is his specialty.

CFL
B.C. Lions president and CEO Bob Ackles died yesterday after suffering a heart attack. Ackles was the club's original water boy who rose through the ranks. He was 69. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Lowe lashes out at Ducks' Burke

Capital **Sports**

Robin Brownlee

Edmonton Oilers GM Kevin Lowe had himself quite a week to kick off the era of new owner Daryl Katz, who was unveiled to the media at a packed presser at Rexall Place Wednesday.

After acquiring Erik Cole, Gilbert Brule and Lubomir Visnovsky, Lowe had the city buzzing by taking a serious run at unrestricted free agent Marian Hossa and another at Jaromir Jagr. Lowe saved the best for last, however, when he finally took a verbal swipe at Anaheim Ducks GM Brian Burke, who has been trashing Lowe for a year — the latest diatribe came just last week when he accused Lowe of driving up salaries.

Lowe's comments have been read and heard all over the city since his interview with Bob Stauffer on Team 1260, so there's no need to repeat all of them again. Suffice to say, though, Lowe's biting rebuttal was overdue with the way Burke has been whining since losing Dustin Penner to an offer sheet.

The highlights:

"Where do I begin? He's a moron, first of all. Secondly, he really believes that any news in the NHL is good news. Thirdly, he loves the limelight. I don't think anyone in hockey will dispute that. Lastly, he's in a pathetic hockey market. They can't get on any page of the newspaper, let alone the front page of the sports."

"... if he wants to get into a debate about what our offer sheets did to salaries, anytime ... I'm sick and tired of it. I think everyone in hockey is. I know all our peers are like, 'Well, that's Burkie.' This guy is an absolute media junkie ..."

Stay tuned.

MARKETING 101: School is out, it was a perfect summer night and the Calgary Stampeders were in town, but less than 33,000 fans showed up to watch the Eskimos win a 34-31 nail-biter in their 2008 CFL home opener at Commonwealth Stadium Thursday. What's with that?

If playing on Thursday is the problem, the Esks could be in a hole attendance-wise by the end of August because their next three home games fall on the same night. Two are 8 p.m. starts.

IT SAYS HERE ... I'd be willing to bet Joni Pitkanen is traded before he gets to the end of the three-year contract he just signed with Carolina ... Expect the Oilers to do what Columbus should have done after they drafted Brule in 2005, namely hitting the rewind button and sending him to Springfield of the AHL so he can develop ... Even though Georges Laraque signed a three-year deal with Montreal, he and coach Craig MacTavish mended fences face-to-face last week and the door is open for a return to the Oilers ... By the way, Lowe offered Laraque the same money, $1.5 million a season for three years, the Habs did.

Robin Brownlee has been the news-breaker and insightful voice for sports fans in Oil Country.

Nadal captures classic match

TENNIS Rafael Nadal punched a mighty hole through Roger Federer's aura of invincibility yesterday to become the first Spaniard in more than four decades to win the Wimbledon men's singles crown.

In one of the most nerve-jangling finals seen at the All England Club, Nadal survived two rain breaks and an astonishing Federer comeback to end the Swiss' five-year reign as Wimbledon champion with a thrilling 6-4, 6-4, 6-7, 6-7, 9-7 victory.

While Nadal emulated the 1966 feat of fellow Spaniard Manuel Santana, Federer's dreams of eclipsing Bjorn Borg and setting a modern-era record of six successive Wimbledon titles died after four hours 48 minutes of heart-stopping action. REUTERS

News in brief

NHL The San Jose Sharks acquired defencemen Dan Boyle and Brad Lukowich from the Tampa Bay Lightning in exchange for defencemen Matt Carle and Ty Wishart. The Sharks also gave up a first-round pick in 2009 and a fourth-round selection in 2010.

GOLF American Anthony Kim claimed his second victory of the year by shooting a flawless five-under-par 65 to win the AT&T National in Maryland.

MLB The Milwaukee Brewers have reportedly acquired pitcher C.C. Sabathia from the Cleveland Indians last night for a package of prospects. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
L.A. Angels 7 Toronto 1
Chicago White Sox 4 Oakland 3
Detroit 2 Seattle 1 (15 ings)
Minnesota 4 Cleveland 3
Tampa Bay 9 Kansas City 2
Texas 11 Baltimore 10
N.Y. Yankees 5 Boston 4 (10 ings)

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Arizona 3 San Diego 2
Atlanta 7 Houston 6 (17 ings)
Chicago Cubs 7 St. Louis 1
Cincinnati 6 Washington 5
Florida 10 Colorado 5
L.A. Dodgers 5 San Francisco 3
Milwaukee 11 Pittsburgh 6
N.Y. Mets 4 Philadelphia 2 (12 ings)

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Kansas City at Tampa Bay, 10:40
Minnesota at Boston, 5:05
L.A. Angels at Texas, 6:05
Seattle at Oakland, 8:05

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Houston at Pittsburgh, 5:05
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, 5:05
Colorado at Milwaukee, 6:05
Florida at San Diego, 8:05
Atlanta at L.A. Dodgers, 8:10

CFL

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Saskatchewan	2	0	0	4
EDMONTON	**1**	**1**	**0**	**2**
Calgary	1	1	0	2
B.C.	0	2	0	0

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	2	0	0	4
Hamilton	1	1	0	2
Toronto	1	1	0	2
Winnipeg	0	2	0	0

WEEK 2

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Montreal 38 Winnipeg 24
Saskatchewan 26 B.C. 16

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Hamilton 32 Toronto 13
EDMONTON 34 Calgary 31

BASEBALL

GOLDEN BASEBALL LEAGUE GAMES FEATURING THE EDMONTON CRACKER CATS:

SATURDAY'S RESULT
EDMONTON 4 Orange County 2

TONIGHT'S GAME
EDMONTON at Long Beach, 8:05

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Niagara College goes Hollywood

Ontario's Niagara College recently ran a full-page, full-colour newspaper ad that parodies a Hollywood movie poster, complete with review comments like "Over 40,000 successful grads and counting ... there's no stopping them!! ... Rated Number 1 in student satisfaction!" METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

'UN-scholarship'

Firkin Group of Pubs, a Canadian neighbourhood pub chain, has launched an online contest to help Ontario PSE students or recent graduates eliminate their loan debt. The company will award five $5,000 "Un-Scholarships" to deserving applicants. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Costs, benefits to working from home

ADVICE Consider taking the plunge and get ready to dive into your own home-based business. But, before you make your final decision, be sure to weigh all of the costs and benefits.

You will need supplies, a separate business telephone line, a computer, software and a high-speed Internet connection. But that's just the beginning.

"People tend to focus on office costs, such as equipment and supplies," says chartered accountant Bruce Ball, partner, National Tax of BDO Dunwoody LLP in Toronto. "But one of the biggest costs involved, if you are making the transition from being an employee to starting your own business, is that you will no longer receive vacation pay and have pension, life insurance, or health/dental care benefits."

Keep in mind that you will be performing most tasks by yourself. "There are significant costs associated with the time required to perform the necessary 'administrivia' related to any business," says chartered accountant Garnet Lasby, CEO of Integrated Business Intelligence Corporation in Hamilton. "Even the smallest business needs to perform bookkeeping tasks, manage payroll and look after tax filings."

Home business owners often neglect to purchase insurance or forget to factor in marketing costs, and be sure to set aside enough money to pay your income taxes, since they will no longer be deducted.

NEWS CANADA

Education gets the video gaming edge

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Can blasting aliens and racing to the checkered flag help kids learn? You bet, says a university professor who studies how video games aid learning.

David Hutchison, a professor of social studies and computers at Brock University and author of Playing to Learn: Video Games in the Classroom, says many games have great teaching potential in mathematics, problem solving, decision making, geographical awareness and even artistic creativity.

"People might be surprised by the number of connections to different subject areas you can make with video games," Hutchison said.

With recent estimates released by the Entertainment Software Association of Canada showing a staggering 88 per cent of children aged 6-17 play games regularly, Hutchison says teachers should tap into kids' love for games as a way to get them hooked on learning.

"Teachers are always looking for a hook for their lessons and video games are a great example of that," he said.

When kids get involved in the process of critiquing and deconstructing the games they play, Hutchison believes they learn valuable critical-thinking skills.

"I'm talking about moving students from just being consumers of video games to becoming critics and creators of video games," Hutchison said.

While pilot training such as that employed by NASA has included games and simulations for years, gaming in general has not been seen as an educational tool in most of North America. Contrary to the stereotype that most games are violent or vapid — a complaint nevertheless bolstered by the booming popularity of violent titles such as the Grand Theft Auto series — more than 70 per cent of the games rated yearly by the Entertainment Software Rating Board are fit for children.

"The vast majority of video games released are appropriate for kids to play," Hutchison said.

examples

Some examples of lesson ideas involving games include having math students calculate and analyze the statistics from a racing game like Forza Motorsport 2, making kids dramatize their favourite scene from a particular game compose music for it.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Prof. David Hutchison has a hold of Xbox 360 controllers with the game Viva Pinata playing in the background. There are many ways for kids to learn through video games, he says.

"I see a lot of educational potential in video games."
Brock Prof. David Hutchison

Workplace weight loss working out

STUDY People who take part in weight-loss programs set up by their employers manage to lose at least modest amounts of weight compared to co-workers who do not take part, U.S. researchers said recently.

But their review of 11 studies published from 1995 to 2006 of such workplace programs in the United States, Britain, Japan, Sweden, New Zealand and Australia did not show whether those employees who lost weight managed to keep it off.

Obesity has been on the rise in the United States and many other countries in recent decades, alongside related illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

Some companies have sponsored programs of various kinds aimed at helping employees lose weight and stay fit.

Dr. Michael Benedict of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, who led the new research, said relatively few studies have assessed how well these programs work.

Benedict said existing research also does not show whether sponsoring such a program saves a company money through greater worker productivity, lower absenteeism and reduced health-care costs.

"The programs are helpful for at least short-term, modest weight loss in people who actually participate in them," Benedict said in a telephone interview. "The problem is getting the people who need it the most to participate in them." REUTERS

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UNBC hits milestone
The University of Northern British Columbia surpassed the $100-million mark in research funding after accruing nearly $17.5 million in the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The total is second to the school's record set in 2005-06, which saw a contribution of almost $19 million. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Finicky financing for filmmakers

Seminar hopes to boost movie-backing opportunities

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Canada is full of creativity and talent but its filmmakers can be lazy when it comes to securing money, says one Hollywood producer.

Hollywood veteran Larry Meistrich, best known as the executive producer of Sling Blade, said Canadian filmmakers need to get a better grip on financial matters to forge successful careers in the movie industry.

"There's a really good creativity that comes out of Canada, but I think there's a laziness because it seems like there's also very little drive to get the investors and get the equity," he said, suggesting that government grants and film funds tend to pamper Canadian filmmakers.

Yet, Meistrich insists that real funding can be found in Canada for filmmakers willing to work hard and offer investors good incentives to dole it out.

Working with Sex And The City producer Antonia Ellis, Meistrich helped produce a series of filmmakers' Boot Camp seminars across Canada, which let aspiring producers, directors, actors and writers from across the country get professional advice directly from the Meistrich and Ellis.

The first piece of financial advice offered by Meistrich? Don't think your investors are stupid. Rather than asking wary investors to pony up huge sums of cash with little to no guarantee of ever seeing it again, Meistrich suggests offering something worth investing in — yourself. Have a second or third movie idea already in the works before starting on the first one and offer investors chunks of your future earnings, perhaps as much as five per cent or more, rather than trying to peddle a dubious slice of unlikely profits from your first project.

"You should ask people not to gamble. Make people invest in you," Meistrich said.

Of course, Meistrich admits many first-time producers are loath to sell off a chunk of their financial futures so early, but he insists people who truly want to be in the industry have to think of the long term and understand where investors are coming from.

"Don't be greedy. Your investors should make more than you because they took the risks. If you sit in front of an investor with that attitude, they're going to appreciate it because they'll see you understand the money situation," Meistrich said.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA
Larry Meistrich speaks to aspiring Canadian filmmakers and content creators.

successful
The three-day camps have been popular in the U.S. and are run in Canada by Meistrich's own company, NEHST Studios, having already run in Ottawa and Toronto with plans to go to Vancouver and other Canadian cities.

Workers happy for happy hour

SUMMERTIME SURVEY With summer in full swing, more workers may be heading to happy hours. According to the new *CareerBuilder.com* survey, one-in-five workers (21 per cent) say they attend happy hours with their co-workers. Among those who attend, nearly a quarter report they go to happy hour at least once a month.

And while 21 per cent of those who attend say happy hours are good for networking, 85 per cent reported that attending a happy hour did not help them get closer to someone higher up or land a better position in the company.

Why do workers go to happy hour? The majority (82 per cent) of workers report that they attend happy hour to bond with their co-workers, while another 20 per cent find it to be a great way to network. Fifteen per cent of workers said they attend to hear the latest office gossip, while 13 per cent only go because they feel obligated to be there. One-in-10 workers (11 per cent) use happy hour as a way to bond with their boss.

Who is going to happy hour? An equal number of male and female workers say they attend happy hours with co-workers. Workers aged 25-34 were the most likely to attend (29 per cent), while workers aged 55 and up were the least likely at 15 per cent.

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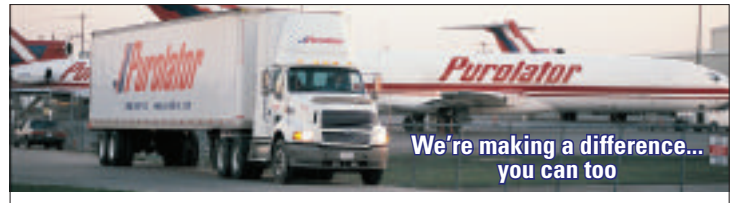

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This day in music history In 2006, Pink Floyd co-founder Roger "Syd" Barrett dies in Cambridge, England at the age of 60, due to complications from diabetes. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

Mamma Mia!

All four members of supergroup ABBA, including Agnetha Faltskog, left, appeared together Friday at the Swedish premiere of the film Mamma Mia!, delighting fans with their first public showing in years.

weekend box office

Hancock is the No. 1 film at the North American box office.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to Media By Numbers LLC.:

1. **Hancock,** $66 million US
2. **WALL-E,** $33.4 million
3. **Wanted,** $20.6 million
4. **Get Smart,** $11.1 million
5. **Kung Fu Panda,** $7.5 million
6. **The Incredible Hulk,** $5 million
7. **Indiana Jones And The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull,** $3.9 million
8. **Kit Kittredge: An American Girl,** $3.6 million
9. **Sex And The City,** $2.3 million
10. **You Don't Mess With the Zohan,** $2 million

Metro News Services

Escovedo lets loose on Animal

Rocker reflects on personal, public past

"Without music I don't know where I'd be. It hasn't been easy, but it's been a beautiful and joyous ride."
Alejandro Escovedo

BRIAN COULTON
music@metronews.ca

It was January 1978 in San Francisco. Sid Vicious was hopped up on heroin, the Sex Pistols were at popularly unending odds and Johnny Rotten delivered the now infamous punk passage, "Ever get the feeling you've been cheated? Good night."

The scene may have depicted the end of England's punk rock pioneers but it was just the beginning for then unknown Alejandro Escovedo. He played guitar and co-wrote songs for The Nuns, the band that opened at the Pistol's historic final show.

Nowadays, he is more likely to open for the Dave Matthews Band.

"It's a vast chasm of difference," chuckles now solo Escovedo. "It's a grand canyon of difference."

But that was over thirty years ago and Escovedo says, today, he can objectively acknowledge the spectacle he was a part of.

"It was eye opening and at the same time kind of heart breaking for me. It wasn't a musical venture at that point.

"It was more about the spectacle of seeing people ... kind of destroy themselves."

Escovedo remarks on this and other defining aspects of his musical life on the heavily autobiographical Real Animal, his tenth full-length album, which will be available in stores across Canada tomorrow.

On the record, he says he reached back to childhood, singing about his musically formative journey starting in his native San Antonio.

"My parents told us we were going on a vacation to California and we never returned to Texas. That's where I learned about the music I ended up loving so much — the English rock and garage rock of the late 50s and 60s."

He says songs like Swallows of San Juan talk about where he grew up. "The rolling around in the mud and the clay is like this primitive nest egg of falling in love with this music and wanting to get back to the source of the music that changed my life."

His life changing events have covered a grand span.

At 57, Escovedo has a plethora of personal and public adventures about which he speaks candidly on the album.

His experiences are what characterize his music and performance, from a near-fatal bout with Hepatitis C to appearing, to his discontent, on U.S. President George W. Bush's iPod playlist (he says he'd rather opt for Obama's).

Escovedo says it's music that has taken him to all these places, people and situations.

"Without music, I don't know where I would be. It hasn't been easy but it's been a beautiful and joyous ride."

THE DARK KNIGHT
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Contest closes July 14, 2008. Must be Canadian residents, 13 years & older and a Facebook member. Go to Rogers Show Off Your Summer Facebook page for full rules or to create a photo mosaic to enter. Limit of 1 photo mosaic per Facebook account per week. 30 prizes consisting either of one Nokia N95 ($689.99) OR one Sony Ericsson K850i ($299.99). Odds of winning depend on the number of votes received on mosaics. Correct answer to mathematical skill-testing question required. No purchase necessary. TM Trademarks of Rogers Communications Inc., used under license or of Rogers Wireless. All other brand names are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2008 Rogers Wireless.

Paint and paper demystified

A Colin and Justin two part back-to-basics guide. This week PAINT, next week PAPER!

Blimey. How paint has changed. Past tense? Matt, satin or gloss. Present tense? Well, for fear of sending you to sleep, we'll dodge the chemical composition science lesson and veer instead towards basic description.

Undercoat — whether painting wood, drywall, metal or brick, there's an undercoat product to suit it. We know it's tempting to cut corners, but unless the paint you're using is specially designed as an 'all in one' (no primer required) then cheating will create poor results. Prepped surfaces last longer.

Latex — the optimum product for wall coverage. Available in every conceivable colour, this water based medium will wash out easily from brushes and rollers.

InteriorDivine

Oil based — these products are, as their name suggests, oil based and, as far as we're concerned there's little need for them in this day and age. They also tend to be more pungent and you'll need special paint thinner and brush cleaners to tidy up after each job.

Paint finishes

Flat — a perfect no-sheen finish (most commonly associated with latex) that is great on walls. A particular bonus is that this paint will help disguise surface imperfections.

Eggshell — particularly good where high traffic is expected as it's easier to wipe clean.

Satin — great for bathrooms, kitchens and kids rooms due to its wipe clean nature.

Gloss — need we say more? A dated finish that we tend to avoid. Period.

Our Top Tips

- Preparation is key; sand, sand and sand again.
- Limit shiny finishes as reflected light will exacerbate any problems. Opt for matt or flat finish if trying to disguise bumpy areas.
- Don't be shy to ask a million and one questions in store before investing in your paint. The staff, after all, are trained to assist!
- Invest in good quality brushes. If you buy cheap, you'll buy twice. And bristle loss will drive you to distraction!

Colin & Justin's The Home Show airs Tuesdays at 11 p.m. and Saturdays at 4 p.m. ET on HGTV. www.hgtv.ca

Jay-Z reaps festival rewards

MUSIC Jay-Z's appearance at Britain's Glastonbury Festival may have upset some rock purists, but it was music to the ears of his bank manager. Sales of the rapper's last album rocketed nearly five-fold in the days after his headline performance, according to HMV figures released on Friday.

HMV said five of Jay-Z's old singles, including Big Pimpin' and 99 Problems are expected to re-enter the British charts.

Katy Perry holds at No. 1

CHARTS Buoyed by increasing airplay, Katy Perry's bicurious ditty I Kissed a Girl started a second week at No. 1 on the latest Billboard Hot 100 singles chart. But there was some stiff competition from the Jonas Brothers, as the teen idols' new single Burnin' Up debuted at No. 5, the second-best entry by a group this decade.

Reuters

Canadian acting legend Raymond Burr, right, will be honoured in the form of a new Canadian postage stamp.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Man behind Bozo the Clown passes away

TELEVISION Larry Harmon, the alter ego behind Bozo the Clown for more than 50 years, died on Thursday of congestive heart failure at age 83, his spokesman said.

Harmon, a native of Ohio, died at his home in Los Angeles, his spokesman, Jerry Digney said. Harmon was not the original Bozo, but he portrayed the flame-haired clown in numerous appearances over the years.

More importantly, he purchased the copyright and trademark to the clown in the 1950s, and as a result was responsible for keeping Bozo working in the entertainment industry for more than half a century.

Over the years, Harmon trained some 200 actors to portray the clown for various local TV stations and other programs franchised around the country.

"We didn't have satellite, syndication and networking like today," Harmon once recalled. "So, I created my own network of local clowns and productions, a cross-country operation that kept me on the road for 50 weeks a year for decades."

Willard Scott, who went on to appear as the weatherman on NBC's weekday morning program Today, was one of those recruited by Harmon. For a time, Harmon also ran a large animation studio in Hollywood, producing cartoons based on comedians Laurel and Hardy, as well as the characters Popeye and Mr. Magoo.

He is survived by his wife, son and four daughters.

Reuters

NBC expands its TV empire

TELEVISION A group made up of NBC Universal, Blackstone Group and Bain Capital on Sunday said they have agreed to buy the U.S. Weather Channel from Landmark Communications in a deal whose financial terms they did not disclose.

The transaction includes the Weather Channel Networks cable network and the Weather Channel's website.

Privately held Landmark, which put the channel up for sale along with other businesses, originally sought $5 billion for the asset, sources have said.

NBC Universal is part of General Electric Corporation.

Reuters

South Park strikes again

WHY SOUTH PARK IS ESSENTIAL, #57: Trey Parker and Matt Stone effectively had the last word on the Hollywood writers' strike earlier this year with Canada On Strike, the South Park episode that earned bonus points for being the latest totally gratuitous shot at this country by the Comedy Central show.

Where we once had to turn to old newsreels and clips of broadcast news shows to evoke and sum up an event in history (FDR declaring war on Japan, Walter Cronkite taking off his glasses after announcing the death of JFK), Canada On Strike will suffice to sum up precisely why the Writers Guild of America strike was an almost completely counterproductive exercise in poor bargaining with scant leverage. I can't wait to see what they'll do if the Screen Actors Guild goes on strike. On a more esoteric note, the next episode in the show's 12th season was a parody of Heavy Metal, the 1981 animated feature that still gives off a pungent aroma of bongwater and mildewed rec room for anyone who made the mortal mistake of being "there" when it was released, or during the long dark period when you could rely on finding a VHS copy of the film in any video rental store in the world. (Divining a unifying theme, Heavy Metal was voiced almost entirely by Canadians, including half the cast of SCTV.)

In a series of mini production featurettes on the South Park Studios web site, Parker, Stone and their animators go behind the scenes to describe how hard they worked to approximate the craptacular animation style of Major Boobage, their loving tribute to Heavy Metal.

They'll probably end up on the 12th season box set of the show, alongside the predictably risible "bonus features" Stone and Parker include with their DVD sets, so you'd might as well get your DVD burner fired up now.

HURTLING INTO THE 21st CENTURY, ONE WEB SITE AT A TIME: In further writers' strike fallout, a web site was launched last week to showcase the work of writers affected by the WGA strike, with the solemn promise that whatever profits they realize — we're talking about the internet here, people — will go to the Actors Fund, which was set up to compensate crew members unemployed by the strike. Strike.tv was launched on the 4th of July with a teaser trailer promising work by writers from a dizzying array of shows, peppered by appearances by actual name actors — I was able to spot Kelly from The Office, two former James Bonds and Bob Newhart.

GETTY IMAGES

South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

Precisely how Strike.tv intends to make money remains to be seen — will they be selling ads, or will the site take a cut of the money if one of the shows gets bought or optioned for movies or TV?

In any case, it seems a classic example of Hollywood backing into the future once again —possibly stumbling into the new business model it sorely needs without any idea of how exactly it got there.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

	C		B	S	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
7/7/08 primetime	2	CFRN	239	318	eTalk	Degrassi: Next	Canadian Idol		Corner Gas	Robson Arms	CSI: Miami "Burned"		News (N)
	3	KHQ	-	370	News (N)	Raymond	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	American Gladiators (N)		Nashville Star		Dateline NBC
	4	CBXT	-	307	Coronation St.	Countdown to	How Do-Maria	City Chase (N)	The Border (DVS)		CBC News: The National		Stampede
	6	KREM	-	372	News (N)	Hollywood	Friends	Scrubs	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami
	7	CKEM	241	347	American Gladiators (N)		Friends	Friends	The Bachelorette (Season Finale) (N)				Bachelorette
	8	CITV	240	339	ET Canada	Entertainment	Risk Takers		Bones (HDTV PA)		House (HDTV PA)		News Hour
	12	CBXFT	119	705	Des squelettes	La Petite vie	Chère Betty (SC)		Bons baisers de France (SC)		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Alberta
	13	KXLY	-	371	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	The Bachelorette (Season Finale) (N)				Bachelorette
	16	KAYU	-	373	'70s Show	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA)		House (HDTV PA)		News (N)
	19	CHTV	-	-	'70s Show	E! News	X-Weighted		My Boys	How I Met	Nashville Star		News (N)
	22	KSPS	-	374	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Being Served	Wait for God	Antiques Roadshow		History Detectives (N)		War of World
	24	WTVS	-	364	History Detectives (N)		Churchill		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)	
news	15	CBCN	502	-	CBC News: The National		Mad About English (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		About English
	21	TWN	505	398	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	27	CNN	500	500	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	54	CTVN	501	391	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	70	BNN	504	508	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Business News		Market Call	Money Talks	Squeeze Play
sports	20	TSN	400	400	Poker-Women's World Open		SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)			Off the Record	Cagefighting Highlights		Poker Night
	23	net	408	418	(6) MLB Baseball Colorado Rockies at Milwaukee Brewers.				Saturday Night Poker		Sportsnet Connected		Best-Sports
	47	SPEED	417	406	101 Cars-Drive	Car Crazy	Barrett-Jackson		Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	This Week in NASCAR		101 Cars-Drive
	94	SCORE	410	403	(7:15) WWE Monday Night Raw				(9:15) Stump the Schwab		WWE Monday Night Raw		
family	9	EDACC	267	351	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Green House	CareersTV	Smallville "Wrath"		Missing "Puzzle Box"		Help TV
	14	YTV	552	543	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Falcon Beach
	17	TREE	553	546	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Crazy Quilt
	42	TOON	555	545	6teen "2-4-1"	Johnny Test	George-Jungle	Merrie Melody	Loonatics	Sixteen	Total Drama	Futurama	Ultimate Aveng
	45	FAM	557	541	Zoey 101	Life Derek	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
cable variety	-	TVA	121	714	TVA 18 heures	Sucré-salé	Qui perd gagne (SC)		Laura Cadieux	Histoires-filles	Monk (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures
	18	CMT	575	583	Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Roseanne	Dedicated		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.
	25	A&E	615	520	Intervention "Charles"		Psychic Kids: Paranormal		Paranormal	Paranormal	Intervention "Chad"		Intervention
	26	MMM	571	581	Listed		I Know My Kid's a Star		Popaganda		I Know My Kid's a Star		Listed
	29	FOOD	603	561	Good Eats	Perfection	Kitchen Nightmares		Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Good Eats
	31	SHOW	617	522	Trailer Park	Billable Hours	ReGenesis "Faint Hope"		Cold Squad		Trailer Park	Billable Hours	Damages
	32	DISC	520	505	Really Big Things		Dirty Jobs		Daily Planet		Really Big Things		Dirty Jobs
	33	SLICE	601	562	Wedding SOS	Party Mamas	The Millionaire Matchmaker		End of Leash	Spoiled Rotten	Wedding SOS	Party Mamas	Matchmaker
	34	W	602	567	Shopping Bags	House	Will & Grace	Friends	How Clean	House	Confidential	Divine Design	How Clean
	35	TLC	521	560	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Kids by the Dozen		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate
	36	BRAVO	620	523	Grasslands-Heaven		Decoding the Undertow		Law & Order "Custody"		Without a Trace "Trials"		Old Gringo
	38	SPIKE	628	584	Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi ★★★ (1983, Science Fiction) Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher.						CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Trek: Voyager
	40	HIST	522	506	Thirteen Days ★★★ (2000, Historical Drama) Kevin Costner, Bruce Greenwood.						Thirteen Days (2000, Historical Drama)		
	41	COM	626	547	Laughs	Rick Mercer	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show
	43	SPACE	627	528	Taken "High Hopes" (Part 3 of 10) (DVS)				Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager		Star Trek: Ent.
	44	WPCH	294	650	Blade: Trinity ★★ (2004, Horror) Wesley Snipes.				Seinfeld	Frasier	Blade: Trinity ★★ (2004, Horror)		
	46	OLN	411	457	(6) Cycling Tour de France Stage 3. (N)				Departures "Jordan"		Cycling Tour de France Stage 3.		
	48	TROP	619	525	Are You Smarter		Deal or No Deal Canada		ET Canada	What Happen?	X-Weighted "Jeremy"		Smarter
	50	STAR	621	527	Scott Baio 46	Hey Paula	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk	TMZ	Scott Baio 46	Hey Paula	Hollywood
	52	HGTV	600	564	Property Virgin	House Hunters	Location, Location, Location		Holmes on Homes		Design U	Home to Stay	Property Virgin
	65	TLN	700	800	Il Segreto di Grande Ourse		The Sopranos (SS)		Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Paid Program	Paid Program
	92	APTN	269	350	First Talk	News	Storytellers	New Canoe	MYTV	renegadepress	Piñero ★★ (2001, Biography) Benjamin Bratt.		
	93	VISION	261	394	McLeod's Daughters (N)		Divine Restor.	Recreat. Eden	Doc "Man's Best Friend"		McLeod's Daughters		Prime Minister
	100	MTV	581	566	Fat Camp Healthy lifestyle.				MTV Live		Fat Camp Healthy lifestyle.		
	101	MM	570	580	MuchNews	The NewMusic	PunchMuch		MuchTopTens Top 10.		Punk'd	Instant Star	Video on Trial
	102	CPAC	512	396	Political Reflections								Canadian Tour
	103	CLT	526	507	Decoding the Past		Traders		The West Wing "Gaza"		Irish Empire		Decoding-Past
	105	TV5	145	761	Palais d'Eu	Cartes	Passez au vert	Ville	Journal TV5	Le Tour en fête "Spéciale à Brest"			
	106	RDI	126	730	Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal (SC)		Le Journal RDI	Le National	Le Téléjournal

critics'corner

Ultimate Avengers: The Movie
Marvel superheroes come together in this 2006 video offering. Lost during the Second World War, Captain America is returned to life and hero status in the present day. His job is to lead others in a battle to save the world. Additional familiar characters include ale-swilling Thor, scientist Bruce Banner, leader Nick Fury and ubersoldier Black Widow. How can you not get excited over that? 11 PM on TOON

The Fiddle and the Drum
That Joni Mitchell's got her hand in almost everything! Which isn't necessarily a bad thing, as illustrated by this performance piece. Alberta Ballet artistic director Jean Grande-Maitre and songwriter Mitchell got together and came up with a ballet set to her music and performed in front of shots of her artwork. Yes, she paints, too. Influencing Mitchell's music and art are her concerns about the environment and war. 6 PM on BRAVO

Transformers star Megan Fox has reportedly called off her engagement to actor fiance Brian Austin Green. Sources claim the pretty brunette, 22, sent business associates correspondence last week alerting them to the sad news. IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Madonna and Ritchie have dinner date

MARRIAGE Madonna and husband Guy Ritchie have put on a show of unity with a rare public appearance together in New York, *imdb.com* reports.

The couple enjoyed a romantic meal at an Italian restaurant — just hours after Madonna's publicist Liz Rosenberg issued a statement denying the pair is set to divorce.

Madonna and Ritchie were snapped heading into an exclusive restaurant hand in hand on Tuesday evening. A source tells *People.com*, "(They looked) like a normal couple that just wanted to have a nice dinner out.

"They looked very unassuming, not like they were looking for attention." Another onlooker tells the website, "Everyone was whispering and saying, 'Wow, that was Madonna. She is supposed to be separating from her husband. I can't believe she is here.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Klum snubs plastic surgery

STATEMENT Heidi Klum would rather look like a "dinosaur" than have plastic surgery, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

The 34-year-old model and TV presenter — who is married to British singer Seal — would never resort to going under the knife to maintain her looks.

She said: "I see that I've aged already. When I look at pictures now and when I see old pictures of me, of course I see I have aged. I don't think I would have plastic surgery.

"I'll be the only dinosaur in town, the only one that can actually move her forehead!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Married life with Mariah 'amazing'

MARRIAGE Rapper/actor Nick Cannon has laughed off rumours his marriage to Mariah Carey is on the rocks, insisting they couldn't be happier, *imdb.com* reports.

He tells *People.com*, "Marriage is amazing. It's the best thing that ever happened to me."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Diaz's boyfriend moving in?

ROMANCE Although Cameron Diaz has only been dating model Paul Sculfor for a month, he's already staying with her, In Touch Weekly reports. "Cameron and Paul have been spending every night together," an insider tells the magazine, noting that Paul's main residence is in his native England. "He doesn't have a house in LA and Cameron doesn't mind him staying with her."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Kate, Lance go out with mom

COUPLE Kate Hudson and Lance Armstrong have been spotted enjoying a meal with the actress' mum Goldie Hawn, further fuelling rumours they are an item, *imdb.com* reports.

The alleged couple was seen eating a late lunch with Hudson's Hollywood veteran mother Hawn at the Ivy restaurant in Santa Monica, California on Tuesday. They were snapped laughing and joking as they dined outside on the restaurant's patio area, according to *People.com*.

Hudson and Armstrong have been romantically linked since they were spotted kissing and cuddling during a party at the Cannes International Film Festival in France in May. But they have refused to speak publicly about their romance.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Law linked to young model

ROMANCE Actor Jude Law is reportedly romancing British model Lily Cole — who is 15 years his junior, *imdb.com* reports.

The Alfie star, 35, has previously been romantically linked to rocker Rod Stewart's daughter Kimberly, but has been spotted with red-haired catwalk beauty Cole in recent weeks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Actor denying affair with Sienna

PEOPLE The married man accused of having an affair with Sienna Miller has denied reports he is romantically involved with the British actress who recently split from her fiance, *imdb.com* reports.

Balthazar Getty, who is married with four children, has refuted allegations he is involved with Miller, saying, "It's not true. No truth to any of that."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Morgan puzzled by divorce claim

MARRIAGE Acting legend Morgan Freeman is puzzled by reports he's splitting from his wife of 24 years, after denying allegations of their alleged impending divorce, *imdb.com* reports.

Freeman, 71, and his wife Myrna — who share a home in rural Mississippi — were rumoured to have consulted a divorce lawyer after reports alleged the actor was unfaithful.

But Freeman was shocked to hear reports of his rumoured breakup from his wife when quizzed about his marital status at an event last week . He insisted, "I don't know anything about that (filing for divorce)."

A spokesperson for the Wanted star added: "We officially have no comment."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ben, Jen celebrate three-year marriage

ANNIVERSARY Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner celebrated their three-year wedding anniversary — by sitting down to dinner with actor Matt Damon and his wife, *imdb.com* reports.

The Daredevil stars were accompanied by Affleck's childhood pal Damon and his heavily pregnant wife, Luciana Barroso, for a two-hour dinner on the patio of Nobu in Malibu, California on Saturday night .

According to *People.com*, they ate cooked fish and sushi rolls — and toasted the couple's anniversary, which was on Sunday, during dessert.

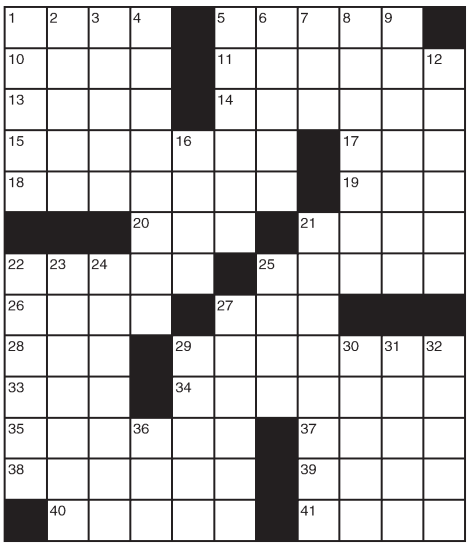
A source says, "Ben and Matt were entertaining the girls with stories, and they were all laughing a lot.

"Jen and Ben were in a great mood, and they left Nobu hand in hand."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jackass star Steve-o has been transferred from a rehabilitation centre into a psychiatric hospital. The troubled stuntman — real name Stephen Glover — had enrolled in a narcotics program to treat his drug addictions, but after allegedly getting clean, he has been moved to the secure mental ward at Los Angeles' Cedars-Sinai Hospital. IMDB.COM

Take Five



Crossword across

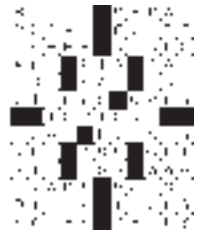
1 Lie in the sun
5 Party attendee
10 Tex. neighbour
11 Slot machine feature
13 Persia, today
14 Singer Nelson
15 Top 40 tune
17 Fitting
18 Involves
19 French word
20 Roulette bet
21 Jack's friend
22 Mexican money
25 Count of music
26 Aware of
27 Friend
28 Lupino of film
29 Venezuela's capital
33 Mai Tai base
34 Milk-carton words
35 Set right
37 "—, Brute?"
38 Sawbuck
39 Require
40 Impudent
41 Casino calculation

Crossword down

1 Idaho city
2 Ohio city
3 Incline
4 Aussie animal
5 Party wildly
6 Fathom and foot
7 Snaky fish
8 Deli buys
9 Libya's capital
12 Fortitude
16 Moves with speed
21 Hot pepper
22 Christie sleuth
23 Survives
24 Tirelessness
25 Naked
27 Food storage room
29 Road work markers
30 Referred to
31 Paid for a hand
32 Wall supports
36 USN rank

950,000
Metro readers do it daily!
metro
Do it daily.
SOURCE: NADbank 2007, read yesterday; BASE: Montreal CMA, Ottawa-Gatineau CMA, Toronto CMA, Vancouver CMA

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
When you're given inspiration – grab it. Broken glass will be hazardous. Happiness is knowing when to stop doing something.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Don't try to clear the air if there's a resistance to truth. It's a super day for a romantic fantasy. Figures lie and liars figure.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A tolerant person will agree to make changes. Upsetting notes will be intercepted. Procedures have priority over relationships.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Be cautious while traveling. A friend shows a remarkable lack of concern. If your energy level flags, ask for help.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
An opinionated person changes your mind. A friendship may be damaged by amusement. Don't borrow from someone you don't like.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't make light of a serious problem. Damage becomes the topic of a discussion. Fear will interfere with getting support.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A baby will be a conversation piece. Avoid answering a skill-testing question. You'll perform random acts of kindness.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24- NOV 22
A conversation will be seductive. Write about one of your haunting experiences. A tyrant is on the endangered list.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23- DEC 21
You'll conduct yourself with dignity. A meeting alters your perspective. Co-workers will complain about faulty management.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Love letters will get lost. News from distance is baffling. Your feelings are a bit too obvious today.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
No time is found for the impractical. Take control of your destiny. A companion will have a replacement for you.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MAR 20
A sweet youngster plays it as it comes. Don't take someone's bad manners personally. You'll finally be able to move on.

This day in history

JULY 7, 1930: Industrialist Henry J. Kaiser begins construction of the Boulder Dam (now known as Hoover Dam).

JULY 7, 1969: In Canada, the Official Languages Act is adopted making the French language equal to the English language throughout the federal government.

JULY 7, 1978: The Solomon Islands become independent from the United Kingdom.

JULY 7, 2002: A scandal broke in the U.K. when reports alleged MI6 of sheltering Abu Qatada, the supposed European Al Qaeda leader.

JULY 7, 2007: Worldwide performances by charity event Live Earth.

Sticklers

by Terry Stickels

At a recent gathering of friends, there were nine more women than men. If the ratio of women to men was 5 to 2, how many men and women were at the party?

Previous Answer: "I would never die for my beliefs because I might be wrong." — Bertrand Russell

Sudoku

		9				2		
		8	1		9	5		
2				6				4
	1	7	5		2	3	4	
	9	4	7		8	6	5	
1				3				6
		3	6		4	9		
		6				8		

INSTRUCTIONS:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

5	6	7	1	3	9	4	8	2
8	2	3	4	7	6	9	5	1
1	9	4	5	8	2	6	3	7
2	3	5	9	4	1	8	7	6
7	4	1	6	5	8	2	9	3
6	8	9	7	2	3	5	1	4
3	7	8	2	6	5	1	4	9
4	1	6	8	9	7	3	2	5
9	5	2	3	1	4	7	6	8

SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:
Under 13 . . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21 . . . . . Smart
21-25. . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising

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Read Metro and metronews.ca daily!
metronews.ca
metro
Do it daily.

Edmonton weather

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Sunny. 20°	Partly cloudy. Low 9°	Variable. 21°/ 10°	60% Rain. 21°/ 10°	40% Showers. 22°/ 10°

Temperature
Normals
High: 22.8°
Low: 10.5°

Records
High: 32.2°/1894
Low: 3.9°/1925

Sunrise: 5:14 a.m.
Sunset: 10:02 p.m.
Moonrise: 11:24 a.m.
Moonset: 11:59 p.m.

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